

Beecher Buzz

March 2008

"Beecher Hills Elementary, where each round goes higher and higher!"

Updates from the PTA President



Robert Reese

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Congratulations and special thanks to the officers and committee chairpersons who helped to complete seven PTA reports. Georgia PTA suggests that local councils annually summarize their PTA's work to leave a written record for their successors, to share their ideas with other PTA's and to receive recognition for their efforts and accomplishments. **Priority Reports** were completed in the areas of Arts in Education, Legislation/Advocacy, Communications, Education Enrichment, Health/Youth Services, and Parent/Family Involvement. Additionally, Beecher Hills PTA submitted a report for **Out-**

standing Local Unit. These reports were submitted for judging and review to council, district, and state levels of PTA. We anxiously await the results!

Reflections Update

"I can make a difference by..." was this year's **Reflections** theme. In the fall, several students submitted original works in visual arts and literature for competition at the next level. We are delighted to announce that one student's literature submission placed at the state level. Congratulations to 2nd grade student, **Janay Minor**. This is the second year that Janay has won at the state level. Also, we are

happy to recognize ten other Beecher Bees who placed at the Council level. These students are as follows:

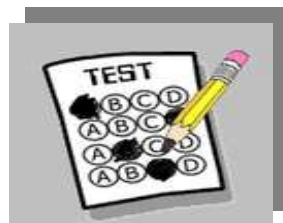
Nzinga Jones, KDG; Sierra Winn, KDG; Alexis Cooper, 3rd; Kwesi Jones, 3rd; Kamaya Brantly, 3rd; Sydni Daniels, 4th; Tamira Johnson, 5th; Victoria Townes, 5th; Deon Hill, 5th and Xayla Wilson, 5th.

On May 1st we will learn where these students have placed at the Council level. This is when the Atlanta Council of PTAs will hold its annual awards program. Advance tickets are \$15 and \$10. Anyone interested should contact the Parent Center for more details.

Beecher Prepares Students for Testing

Teachers and students at Beecher Hills are preparing for the **Criterion References Competency Tests**, or **CRCT** which will be administered April 21—25. The CRCT is a state mandated achievement test for students in grades 1 through 8. The CRCT covers **Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies**; however, students in 1st & 2nd grades do not take the Science and Social Studies portions.

3rd grade students are required to meet expectations on the **reading** portion of the CRCT in order to be considered for promotion to the next grade level. **5th and**



Provided by:
Mrs. Crystal Mayfield Jones,
Instructional Liaison Specialist

8th grade students are required to meet expectations on the **reading & math** portions of the test to be promoted to the next grade level.

How to Help Your Child:

- ◆ Reassure your child that there will be ample time to take the tests.
- ◆ Be sure your child gets plenty of sleep, has a nourishing breakfast and is at school on time.
- ◆ Encourage good test taking skills: *Follow directions carefully, avoid careless errors and review your work.*
- ◆ Explain the purpose of the test, let your child know that you consider the test to be important, and that they should try their best.

Good Luck!

Homework Hotline

Monday—Thursday

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

678-553-3029

A FREE service of

Atlanta Public Schools

BEECHER is BEST!

Title I

Distinguished

School

AYP 7 Years

Girl Scout Troop Interviews Celebrity



Cassi Davis of **"Tyler Perry's House of Payne"** (back row left) poses with members of Girl Scout Troop 8152 and their sponsors, Dr. Fair and Kim Brown.

Beecher Hills Junior Troop 8152 had the pleasure of interviewing Cassi Davis - known to most of you as Ella on Tyler Perry's House of Payne. The TV show is aired on Wednesday nights on the TBS network.

Girl Scouts: Olivia Anderson, Ashia Bright, Trae'C Dumas, Dajarae George, Cherokee Johnson, Zoe Nelson, Makeda Phillips, Clark

Washington, Nykeria Webb and Xayla Wilson did an excellent job with their interview. Additionally, the girls were great hosts in representing Beecher to Ms. Cassi.

These young ladies are working on their Girl Scout Bronze Level Award, and the criteria is that they interview a community celebrity. The Bronze Award is one of the 3rd highest awards that the Girls Scouts can receive.

SUPPORT BEECHER HILLS BASKETBALL !!!



We Are in the Tournament!

Games Played at Gideon @ 4:15 pm

GO BEES!!

Beecher Hills Elementary 1st Annual Father-Daughter Ball

Registration Fees Due!

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Contact: Mrs. Greene

adrienne_greene@hotmail.com

Parent Volunteer Opportunities...

It may be hard to believe, but there are only 10 weeks of school remaining. Thanks to many of you who already have met the APS requirement for 20 volunteers hours. Our year has been much smoother because of your contribution. However, some of you planned to get this done, but somehow fell short. If your schedule allows, please consider planning time to volunteer. See your child's homeroom teacher, the parent center, or main office for areas of need.

Community Supporter REMINDERS




Krispy Kream Reward "A's"

Students can take their report cards to local Krispy Kream stores and receive a free donut for each "A" earned. *Learning is sweet!!*

daVidos \$3.75 PIZZA

daVidos Rewards Straight "A's"

Attention Principal's List students! Remember to take your report cards to daVidos Pizza and receive a free small pizza!



**2008-2009
PTA ELECTIONS**

Elections for next year's officers will be held on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. **ALL PTA MEMBERS**, please be present to cast your vote. Anyone interested in serving a specific office should contact the nominations committee via the PTA email address or stop by the Parent Center. Details on officer duties can be found at www.georgiapta.org.

Beecher Students Recognized at 1st Semester Awards Day



Dr. Hall presents Principal's List certificates to 4th Grade students.

Proud parents, family members, friends, and Beecher Hills staff gathered in the school auditorium to recognize the achievements of some of

Beecher's Best students. Beecher Hills presented the **1st Semester Awards' Day Ceremonies** in January.

Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th were recognized for earning Principal's List (all A's), Honor Roll (A's & B's) and Perfect Attendance during the first semester of school. Beecher Hills students were outstanding in their achievements at every grade level, with awards presented as follows:

Kindergarten

Principal's List: 24 Students
Honor Roll: 11 Students
Perfect Attendance: 16 Students

1st Grade

Principal's List: 12 Students
Honor Roll: 17 Students
Perfect Attendance: 14 Students

2nd Grade

Principal's List: 3 Students
Honor Roll: 18 Students
Perfect Attendance: 15 Students

3rd Grade

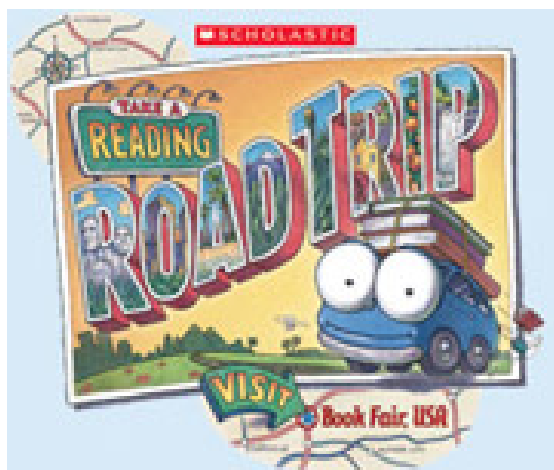
Principal's List: 6 Students
Honor Roll: 13 Students
Perfect Attendance: 12 Students

4th Grade

Principal's List: 4 Students
Honor Roll: 12 Students
Perfect Attendance: 24 Students

5th Grade

Principal's List: 6 Students
Honor Roll: 11 Students
Perfect Attendance: 18 Students



Spring 2008 Book Fair Take A Reading Road Trip

Dates: Monday—Friday

March 17—21, 2008

Place: Beecher Hills Media Center

This spring, let's "Take a Reading Road Trip" together. Like a road trip, reading can take you places you never imagined. Your Book Fair will educate, inspire, amuse, and take young readers on adventures they will not want to miss!



- "I Lost My Tooth in Africa" was written by 12-year-old Penda Diakite. A third-grader in Portland, Oregon when she wrote "I Lost My Tooth in Africa," Penda Diakite, now 14, is the youngest author ever to win the Children's Africana Book Award.
- "I Lost My Tooth in Africa" was recently awarded the Africana Book Award from the African Studies Association.
- Experience the culture of childhood in Mali as Mama Koku brings this beautiful story to life.
- The first 50 children will receive a free copy of the book and a map.

Saturday, March 15, 2008

11:00am – 1:00pm

Cosby Auditorium, Spelman College

Please call: 404.224.3464

Reservations are required for this free event.



Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program

Stand-up kids deserve to stand out.

Kohl's plans to award over \$300,000 in scholarships and prizes to more than 1,900 kids whose volunteer efforts have made a positive impact on their communities. Nominees must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate as of March 15, 2008. Each nominee must be nominated by parents, educators or community members age 21 years or older. Nomination forms may only be completed and submitted at www.kohlskidswhocare.com. No paper nomination forms will be accepted. Forms must be submitted no later than midnight CST March 15, 2008.

Nominations should describe how the nominee has contributed to the community in a meaningful way by performing volunteer services that helped non-family members. The young person's actions must be described in detail and should document efforts that are above and beyond what is normally expected of a child his or her age. The volunteer activity must have occurred within the last 12 months. Nomination forms will be separated into two age groups: ages 6-12 and ages 13-18. Kohl's will recognize young volunteers at three levels:

- ◆ 1900+ Store level winners (earn \$50 gift card, certificate and entry into the regional competition)
 - ◆ 190 Regional winners (earn \$1,000 scholarship for post secondary education and entry into the national competition)
 - ◆ 10 National winners (receive \$5,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 grant to the charity of their choice)
- Winners will be notified in June 2008. Financial need or academic performance will not be considered in the review and selection of winners. As a supporter of equal opportunity, Kohl's will work with Scholarship America to distribute awards to minority students on a basis at least proportionate to the number of known minority nominees.

March

Is the Month for . . . Reading, Nutrition, Women

Beecher Hills PTA Presents

FAMILY READING NIGHT

Reading: "Fun for the Whole Family"



Beecher Hills Reading Night is just around the corner! This event will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, from 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. We invite you to attend, and we want you to bring the whole family to enjoy the fun entertainment we have planned for you!

- ◆ **Book Signing** by author, **Melvin Richardson**, *"Embracing All of Parenthood: Our Wives and Mothers Can't Do It All"*.
- ◆ **Book Swap**—Bring a book and get a book!
- ◆ **Book Fair, Story Reading, Choral Reading, More!**

To donate your gently used books, you may bring them to the Parent Center during the week of March 10—14, or bring them with you to the **Reading Night** event.


Additionally, we are calling on all fathers to come out to support your children in reading and education. Reading is the foundation of success for all ages, and it's FUN!




National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign created by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

March is Women's History Month

★ Every March, classrooms and historic sites throughout the nation observe Women's History Month. In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) was founded. The [National Women's History Project](http://www.nwhf.org) is an educational nonprofit organization, and their mission is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs. To honor the originality, beauty, imagination, and multiple dimensions of women's lives, they have chosen **Women's Art: Women's Vision** as the 2008 theme for National Women's History Month.

MARCH 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH					1
2	3 Read Across America	4 Design Team Meeting Slate of PTA Officers Posted	5 Georgia	6 Writing Test	7	8
9	10 ITBS 3rd—5th Grades	11	12 Mid- 2nd Semester	13 Atlanta Council General Mtg. 7:00	14 Teacher Planning Day NO SCHOOL	15
16	17 Book Fair 3rd Gr. Writing Test 1st Gr. Field Trip	18 Book Fair Design Team Meeting Family Reading Night	19 Book Fair Demonstration Of Learning (Freedom)	20 Book Fair Demonstration Of Learning (Freedom)	21 Book Fair Report Cards	22
23	24	25 PTA Elections Faculty Mtg.	26	27	28 Fernbank Science Museum—Kdg.	29
30 ←	31 State Reflections Reception					

APRIL 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Keep America Beautiful Month		1	2 2nd Grade Parent Conference 2:30 Parent Meeting 6:00	3 Leadership Team Mtg.	4	5
6	7	8 SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 PTA Executive Com. Meeting 6:30	16	17 Atlanta Council General Meeting 7:00	18 Deficiency Notices	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Pine Mtn Wild Animal Pk. Kindergarten	26 Father-Daughter Dance
27	28 CRCT Make-up	29 Faculty Meeting	30	31		

Beecher Hills Elementary
 Dr. Robin C. Hall, Principal
 2257 Bollingbrook Drive, SW
 Atlanta, Georgia 30311
 Phone: 404-752-0785

We're on the web!

www.BeecherHills.com

Beecher Hills

PTA

everychild.one voice.

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 Carla Davis, Vice-President
 Olivia Jones, Treasurer
 Dione Morton, Corresp. Secretary
 Avril Copeland, Rpt. Secretary
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 Terri Weekes, Parent Liaison
 Clarence Benjamin, Tech Chair

Send articles to: Pamela Hunter

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beecherhillsptsanews@yahoo.com

Next Issue: April, 2008

Article Deadline: Apr. 4, 2008

Beecher Hills Activities & Events:

Beecher is a Beehive of Activity!

◆ **Book Fair: Week of March 17–21.**
 Location: Media Center.

◆ **Reading Night: Tuesday, March 18**
 6:00 pm. Come out to support this PTA event, and help to provide an excellent education for our children.

◆ **Demonstration of Learning: Thursday, March 19 & 20 (Freedom Culminating Activities).** Check with your child's homeroom teacher for details.

◆ **PTA Meeting: Tuesday, March 25,**
 6:00 pm. Come out and vote for 2008-2009 Officers.

◆ **State Reflections Reception: Sunday, March 30.** The Georgia PTA 2007-2008 Reflections Reception will be held at The Atlanta history Center. Invitations have been sent out to all state level winners. Parents, Teachers, Principals, and Reflections Chairs are all welcome to attend.



Come Join Us!



1st Year Strings students from the Beecher Orchestra tune-up for WBUZZ. Mr. Brewer is the orchestra director.



Pre-K students perform an African dance during Black History Month Celebration.

Beecher Hills PTA Mission:

"Beecher Hills Elementary PTA endeavors to provide support to the school and community through Advocacy, Volunteering, Wellness promotion, and Financial resources to ensure All Students, Parents, and Teachers have the Ultimate Educational Experience."

Principal's Corner: Testing Tips from Dr. Hall

Greetings!

As you know, we are now into our testing season. The third and fifth grade writing tests and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) at grades three and five have been administered to date. To this end, we are anticipating stellar results as we continue to elevate in 2008!

Additionally, the **Georgia Criterion Competency Test (CRCT)** will be administered from April 21, 2008 until April 30, 2008. We are continuing to work hard with our students in insuring that the students at Beecher Hills not only achieve, but exceed grade level content standards. You can as-

sist us in reaching this goal by making sure that:

- ◆ Students come to school daily and on time.
- ◆ Students attend assigned tutorials.
- ◆ Students complete their homework and projects.
- ◆ Students take advantage of the web-based programs that are available for CRCT Practice (CRCT Study Island and GOAS). Students should have their passwords.
- ◆ You attend all upcoming grade level parent meetings.

◆ You assist students with their CRCT Study Packets.

◆ You confer with your child's teacher about specific ways you can help your child perform at his/her optimal level.

Again, we are expecting greater accomplishments and achievement this school year. We will continue to be a Title I Distinguished School by meeting Adequate Yearly Progress for **eight** consecutive years. Beecher Hills will also **meet or exceed 70% or more of our APS targets while closing the achievement gap.**

